

PATENT
TH-1258 (US)
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Eugene R. Montalvo

Date: 27 JAN 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)

Donald W. Allen et al)

Serial No. 09/625,893)

Filed: July 26, 2000)

SMOOTH SLEEVES FOR DRAG AND VIV)
REDUCTION OF CYLINDRICAL STRUCTURES)

Group Art Unit: 3677

Examiner: K. Mitchell

January 26, 2005

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 27 AUGUST 2004

Attorney for Applicants in the above-captioned application hereby respond to the Office Action mailed 27 August 2004. Attorney is concurrently filing for a two-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. At the time the Office Action was mailed, claims 1 – 6 were pending. Attorney for Applicants is also filing a Revocation and New Appointment of Power of Attorney by Assignee and a Terminal Disclaimer.

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With regard to claims 2 and 5, while the Allen Paper does disclose ABS and PVC cylinders having a k/D in the claimed range. However, as noted above, one of ordinary skill, on reading the Allen Paper would be lead to believe that the k/D ratio disclosed therein would fail to provide VIV and drag suppression. As noted in Allen Declaration 2, paragraphs 17 – 20, it is only when the fiberglass cylinder was ground to ensure a uniform smoothness and k/D did the cylinder exhibit VIV and drag suppression. As Dr. Allen noted, the only conclusion was that the ABS and PVC samples were not representative of the overall cylinder k/D. Thus, the structure disclosed in the Allen Paper did not inherently have either the overall cylinder k/D or the VIV and drag suppression capabilities. Accordingly, claims 2 and 5 are patentable over the cited combination.

With regard to claims 3 and 6, it is asserted that the Allen Paper, which discloses the k/D ratios for ABS and PVC cylinders within the claimed range, could be combined with sleeves disclosed by Gregory '722 having a surface in the claimed k/D range.. As noted above, Gregory '722 teaches that fairings, not sleeves are effective in controlling VIV. Moreover, as noted above, the Allen Paper teaches that cylinders in the claimed k/D range do not exhibit VIV and drag suppression. Allen Declaration 2 comes to the concludes that the k/D for the samples from the PVC and ABS cylinders, while within the claimed range, were not representative of the overall k/D of the respective cylinders. Thus, the structures disclosed the Allen Paper did not and could not inherently suppress VIV and drag. Accordingly, claims 3 and 6 are patentable over the cited combination.

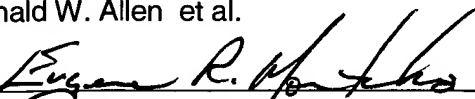
Conclusion

Attorney has responded to each and every ground for objection and rejection and respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, when considered in light of the above arguments, the Allen Declaration 2 and the Terminal Disclaimer, are patentable over the cited art. In the event the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding the above-presented materials, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number below prior to the issuance of any formal action.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald W. Allen et al.

By



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